PUDUKKOTTAI STATE

WAR INFORMATION BUREAU

BULLETIN] JANUARY 3, 1942 [No. 76

LECTURE LXXVI.

"THIS GAUDY PIECE OF TIME"

We have just heard a very eminent cleric wish his congregation a happy Christmas and New Year. He did not qualify it with the common triteness about its being 'as happy as possible'; nor did he on the other hand, allow that the variation "a merry Christmas" would be anything but indecent in current circumstances, but he was able to convince his hearers that wishing them a "happy" Season was no humbug. The speaker is not only an experienced and persuasive theologist, he is also a leading man of affairs, and later in conversation he not only agreed with our suggestion in the last number of this paper that this year-end was intrinsically a happier and more promising one than either last year or the year before, but he even mentioned an inner conviction that next year-end might be spent in peace. Nor did he mean peace on German terms.

There is no need to assess the value of his conviction. He may well be absolutely wrong, or............... But the assumption that a situation which must have looked—at least to those in the know—*almost* hopeless two years ago, is now full of the promise of ultimate and complete victory, was pleasantly comforting if only because one always considers the man who has independently adopted a view which coincides with one's own as a sound and intelligent person!

What grounds, some people of PUDUKKOTTAI may well ask, as they wait anxiously for news from MALAYA and BURMA, have we for asserting that things are going well? The South CHINA seas seem full of Japanese ships, the islands of their troops and the air of their planes; our American friends have been caught napping, their half-way houses are crippled and insecure, and the PHILIPPINES in sore straits, our own HONGKONG has gone, and not only SINGAPORE but RANGOON and the very coasts of INDIA itself await the grim sound of bombs and shells. Why, or how, be happy?

To take smaller things first, one reason for confidence is a comparison between the position of JAPAN as an apparently victorious aggressor, compared with that of her mentor and predecessor GERMANY, when she was 'on top of the world' in May 1940. After the DUNKERQUE evacuation and the fall of FRANCE, the whole of the world's greatest airfleet was free to occupy air-bases just across the twenty-mile strip of the English Channel, while between these forward bases and the hub of the German war-machine itself lay only a couple of hundred miles of highly-developed land communications. BRITAIN appeared to the world to be at the mercy of GERMANY,......... and survived to win.

The Japanese must secure to themselves a 3,000 miles sea-route, between their home bases and ports and say SINGAPORE or the N. E. I., and beyond that 800 miles of sea and jungle. before they can threaten INDIA as GERMANY threatened BRITAIN.

GERMANY, far better placed than JAPAN will ever be given time to be, made terrific propaganda efforts to spread panic in BRITAIN, and convince the world that all was over bar the shouting. All the effect it had was summed up in Mr. Churchill's famous speech in June 1940: "Contemplating our dangers with disillusioned mind I see great reasons for vigilance and exertion, but none whatever for panic or dismay." In just the same way, but with far less reason, Japanese and German propaganda to-day are making enormous efforts to frighten the people of BURMA and INDIA into hysterics. Surely, *surely* we in this State and country have only to exercise "intense vigilance and exertion" to be able to counteract with confidence the panic-and-dismay merchants! It is of course natural for a man with a bad toothache to remain temporarily unaffected by the perusal of news of a severe earthquake somewhere else, but sense of proportion is generally not long in coming to

him, and anxiously as we may survey the Pacific battle, it seems chiefly a sense of proportion and a capacity to see the war as a whole that is *the* desideratum in INDIA to-day.

For—turning from the lesser to the greater—there is genuine cause to be happier and more confident than at any time since war broke out. The Allies have made mistakes, and experienced failures, but neither the cost of these nor their moral magnitude are comparable with the errors and reverses of the enemy. Seeing the state of unpreparedness of the Democracies in 1939, for instance, what might have happened if the Axis Powers had been a close-knit confederacy such as are the A. B. C. D. Powers to-day, instead of being an *ad hoc* association of a few sneaking brigand countries with a powerful, unscrupulous revolutionary against international law? Suppose that when the Germans had started on their terrifyingly successful career, when SCANDINAVIA, and Central EUROPE and FRANCE were prostrate, when RUSSIA was under pact and AMERICA rent with electionist faction and impotent under the temperamental obsession of isolationism, the Germans had pressed home the invasion of BRITAIN, the Italians had gone bald-headed for SPAIN and the control of the Mediterranean, and the Japanese for an unready SINGAPORE and similar control of the Western Pacific–how would Democracy have fared then?

But no! The lure of PARIS diverted Hitler from pressing home in the early summer of 1940 his one chance of winning the war at a stroke by the immediate invasion of an narmed BRITAIN, and three months later—the most precious breathing space ever allowed!—the magnificent attacking defence of the newly-fledged R. A. F. gave that vital project so different a complexion that Hitler was forced into a new, more treacherous, and more disastrous scheme, the subjection of RUSSIA. Meanwhile the Battle of the Atlantic, Hitler's alternative weapon, after its first menacing flourishes, began to have its edge blunted, and now constitutes but a minor threat. ITALY not only hid what she did not lose of a powerful fleet in her ports (thus depriving Hitler of the one arm he did not possess) but lost a land empire which was placed to cut the British Commonwealth in half. And now the Japanese, between whom and the Germans there is not much love lost, even if their political ideologies seem to coincide, have done precisely what Hitler spent two years trying to prevent, and have brought the enormous, if hitherto slightly ill-articulated, power of the UNITED STATES whole heartedly into the war against the Axis.

Therefore we say, "be strong and of a good courage." Therefore take to yourselves, and spread around you, confidence. Fear and anxieties are purely wasteful commodities, when four-fifths of the peoples of the world are at last duly ranged against the villainous disturbers of its peace and common happiness. The struggle may be long, and the sacrifices called for severe, but there is now only one possible end to it—absolute victory.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

19—12—41 to 31—12—41.

1942.—We wish our readers a happy New Year—a year of signal victory overthrowing the evil forces of Nazism. Yet it is not merely a pious wish but a hope, a forecast based on a review of past events.

1940–after the defeat of FRANCE–found us alone and unprepared, against a powerful and unscrupulous enemy who had overawed the world by his successive conquests, but the first glimpse of recovery was soon vouchsafed; thanks to British fortitude, and the heroism of her sons, the first victory was soon secured in the aerial battle over BRITAIN, and the enemy was hurled back howling across the Channel. This was the first corner turned, the first stemming of the Nazi advance.

1941 has proved more hopeful still–as the following summary of the chief events may show:—*January*, the conquest of LIBYA and the Italian disgrace on sea and land; *February*, GERMANY'S counter-stroke on GREECE and LIBYA; *May*, the conquest of ABYSSINIA and the breaking-up of the Italian Empire, the restoration of order in IRAQ followed by the occupation of SYRIA; *June*, the entry of RUSSIA as an Ally; *August*, the Atlantic Charter, and the occupation of IRAN; *October*, the reopening of the BURMA Road; *November*, the resumption of the British Offensive in LIBYA, which is now drawing to a victorious close, and *December*, the entry of AMERICA into the war—the country which once hesitated even to supply arms to the Allies.

1941 as may thus be seen, has marked a steady progress in the Allied fortunes and chances of a final success. We are no longer alone, but stand associated with the fabulous man-power of Russia and the

astronomical resources of AMERICA, not to speak of other Allies. What is more important, a spiritual victory has been won; the world no longer staggers under the spell of Axis invincibility. The Italian partner has been hunted off sea and land, and now hardly counts as an enemy. German 'invincibility' has now been disproved over one thousand miles of the Russian front, and all over the deserts of LIBYA. The Atlantic menace has been largely mastered, and the Mediterranean Sea continues to be the grave of transported Axis supplies and forces. Significant landings are being effected on the far away Norwegian coasts, while the heart and vitals of GERMANY are being battered by the ever-mounting R. A. F. blows. All this is a great moral gain; it spells the doom of Nazi Germany, which Herr Hess was wise enough to foresee as early as May and flee from, seeking refuge on the Scottish Coast.

1942, there is thus no doubt, at least, there is thus every hope, will prove a year of further successes, leading to final victory. There may be hard fighting yet, but the flow of success is no longer in doubt. Let us then in the words of our Premier 'address ourselves to the task, not in any way underrating its difficulties and perils, but in good heart and sober confidence.'

Russia.—It is now perfectly clear that all the German explanations accounting for the German retreat on the Russian front are but feeble excuses. The retreat can no longer be explained away as a 'rationalisation' and 'straightening' of a curved front, or as a 'withdrawal' necessitated by the 'sudden' onset of winter. It is now apparent that the movement is a flight forced by Russian pressure. KHARKOV, RUSA, TARUSA, KALINO, VOLOKALAMSK, BUDGOTSCH, GRUZINO, KRAPIVNA, VOLKHOV, BYELEV, NAROFOMINSK, OSKUYE, KALUGA, LIKHVIN, VYSOKINICHI, NOVOSIL, TIMI, and last but not least, KERCH and FEODOSIA have been recaptured one after another, and the enemy has been hounded into the wilderness of snow and ice. The earlier successes have freed LENINGRAD and MOSCOW from a siege which once threatened their safety. The capture of KERCH explodes the theory of voluntary evacuation. Not for all the world would the Nazi, if he could help, voluntarily relinquish his hold on KERCH, the gateway to the coveted Caucasian fields.

The seriousness of the Nazi reverses in RUSSIA is reflected on the frantic efforts that Hitler is making to bolster up the morale on the home and military fronts. In the Mussolini manner he has dismissed

and disgraced and made a scape goat of his generals—Brauchitsch, Bock, Rundstedt and Guderian. Like the gambler that he is, he has taken the desperate step of declaring himself the Generalissimo, in the vain hope of duping and doping his people with fantastic notions of his invincibility. But all this is not going to stop the rot. A corporal and a swashbuckler he is not going to win where Brauchitsch and Bock have failed. For a second time in history a retreat has had to be made from Moscow in the Russian winter, a retreat much sooner than was expected, before even Moscow had been entered and before deep winter had set in; but the last chapter of the history—St. Helena, has yet to be written.

The Russians have given the Germans no respite for the winter, and will not—all through the winter and the coming spring. Goebbels has already begun to proclaim the existence of 'an enemy superior in number and material' on the eastern front—he has made the discovery just now, and the 'colossal might of two empires—BRITAIN and AMERICA which cannot be overthrown in days, weeks or months.'

Libya.—In the words of General Smuts, the capture of BENGHAZI during the week is the 'finest Christmas box' which Auchinleck, the Commander-in-Chief of the MIDDLE EAST, has given the empire, for the Christmas week, 1941 'has been rounded off with this victory.' During the two weeks under report CYRENE, AGALA, DERNA, MECHELI, APOLLONIA, BENINA and BARCA were successively taken, culminating in the capture of BENGHAZI, which brings practically the whole of CYRENAICA under British control, though mopping up operations have still to be carried out in SOLLUM, HALFAYA and BARDIA.* The Italians, who have now been isolated north of JEDABYA, hardly count as a fighting force and the main Axis forces, massed under General Rommel have been caught between the sea and the JEDABYA mountains—unable either to withdraw or to give battle.

Far-East.—In this scene of operations the initial momentum gained by the enemy through surprise attack has not yet subsided. HONGKONG has fallen with battle honours, after a heroic defence, lasting 16 days, and till water and food failed. In MALAYA, PENANG and IPOH have been evacuated, and martial law has been proclaimed in SINGAPORE. The enemy is exerting great pressure in the KUANTAN and PERAK regions. RANGOON has been raided.

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* BARDIA has since been occupied.

In the PHILIPPINES, the enemy has effected numerous landings in the North and South, at LINGAYEN, MINDANAO, and ANTIMORAN. MANILA itself, declared an open city, has been savagely bombed,* and under pressure the American troops withdrawn from LINGAYEN are falling back upon SAN PABLO—35 miles from the capital.

WAKE ISLAND has been occupied. The first attack on the DUTCH EAST INDIES was made at SERANTA, and since then MEDAN (SUMATRA) has been raided, and a landing effected at KUCHING (SARAWAK). Japanese vessels have been seen off CALIFORNIA and ALASKA. A strong Japanese drive in North HUNAN (CHINA) is also reported.

Though the day of reckoning is not yet, the Allied front is not inactive. The enemy aerodrome at SUNGEI PATANI is being severely bombed by the R. A. F. Chinese forces are counter-attacking on the KOWLOON front. The Dutch fleet is rendering invaluable service, and has already sunk 16 Japanese ships—one cruiser, 2 destroyers, one tanker, 4 troop-ships, 3 freighters, 4 supply transports and one lighter. American help is being speeded up, and President Roosevelt has sent the following heartening message to the people of the PHILIPPINES :—

> " The freedom of the people of PHILIPPINES will be redeemed and their independence established and protected. The entire resources in man and material of the U. S. stand behind that pledge. The resources of the U. S., of the British Empire, of the NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES and of the Chinese Republic have been dedicated by their people to the utter and complete defeat of the Japanese war lords."

General Wavell has taken over the defence of BURMA in addition to other duties. Sir Henry Royds Pownall has succeeded Sir Robert Brooke-Popham in the Far East Command. Mr. Duff Cooper has been appointed Resident Minister at SINGAPORE. General Wavell had a three-day conference at CHUNGKING with General Chiang-Kai-Shek and the Chief of Staff of the U. S. Air Corps.

Portuguese Timor.—Dutch and Australian forces have occupied Portuguese TIMOR as a military measure, even as the U. S. occupied ICELAND earlier in the year. TIMOR, half Dutch and half Portuguese is in the danger Zone in the Pacific, with a good harbour and air-port at DELI, the capital. In October it may be remembered PORTUGAL signed an agreement

* The Enemy has since entered MANILA.

with JAPAN granting facilities to open a Japanese air-line from PALAU (Japanese mandated) to DELI. As such a Japanese foothold was a menace to AUSTRALIA and the DUTCH EAST INDIES, the inevitable step had to be taken. The Portuguese Government, while protesting did not oppose the landing.

A Tempest in a Tea-Pot.—The prevailing Anglo-American policy in regard to FRANCE has been to wean Vichy if possible, from German-collaboration. With this end in view the U. S. recently reached an agreement with the French authorities at MARTINIQUE guaranteeing the *status quo* Meanwhile, the Free-French Admiral Muselier, without the knowledge of the U. S. and CANADA, has landed troops at ST. PIERRE and MIQUELON, French islands off NEWFOUNDLAND, taken the Governor in custody and occupied them. A plebiscite taken immediately afterwards showed that more than 98% of the people were in favour of the Free French. Vichy has no doubt protested, but the wishes of the people have also to be taken into account. These Islands occupy a strategic situation, and will become danger spots should they fall into German hands. Alreadythe St. Pierre Radio was known to be broadcasting useful weather information to the enemy.

A Smart Raid.-Reports have reached us of a small but effective British raid on December 27 on the Norwegian Islands of VAAGSO and MAALOY now in German hands. These Islands, situated between TRONDHJEM and BERGEN, are on the supply lines from GERMANY to the Nazi forces in North RUSSIA. Besides, MAALOY is a fishing centre with an oil industry. The attack was carried out by the air, land and sea forces in combination, light forces of the Home fleet effecting a landing at dawn under cover of a smoke screen provided by the Bomber Command, and the commandos who were so landed carried out simultaneous attacks on the two islands, killing or capturing the entire garrison of some 200 Nazi crack troops. The industrial plants were blitzed and the coastal guns were dynamited. Eight ships consisting of 5 merchant vessels, 2 trawlers and a tug were sunk, and 95 Germans and 9 Quislings were taken prisoners. The party finally returned with such Norwegians as volunteered to join the British forces.

A Supreme War Council.—WASHINGTON and MOSCOW, separated by some 5,000 miles of sea and land, are now in common deliberation over the question of setting up a Supreme Council to evolve a common and co-ordinated war strategy. Other allied countries are being consulted,

and are likely to meet at WASHINGTON at an early date. To carry out this object, Mr. Churchill has gone to AMERICA, and Mr. Eden went to Moscow, each with his staff of technical advisers. At WASHINGTON Mr. Churchill, the guest of President Roosevelt, had the unique honour of delivering a historic speech before the combined Houses of the Congress. He is now in CANADA, where also he has addressed the Legislature, and has returned to WASHINGTON to continue his task.

While at Moscow Mr. Eden conferred with Stalin, and Molotov, and met the Chinese Representatives and the British ministers from IRAN and TURKEY. He has returned to LONDON, with most favourable impressions of his mission.

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES.

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.	Aircraft losses for the enemies.
15—12—41. (Monday.)				
	(By British planes).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
NIGHT :—				
	OSTEND and **BREST.**			
	Offensive patrols over Northern FRANCE.			
	Enemy aerodromes in occupied COUNTRIES.			
	ITALY.			
	The Naval base at TARANTO.			
	ITALIAN LIBYA.			
	Offensive and Reconnaissance activities over the GAZALA, TMIMI and GADD EL AHMAR Zones.			
	Motor transport on the CHEMINES—EL AGHIELA road.			
	The wharves at BENGHAZI ...		No loss.	

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.	Aircraft losses for the enemies.
15—12—41. (Monday)—*cont.*				
	(By Russian planes.)			
	EASTERN FRONT.			
	Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole Front.		4 planes.	16 planes.
	(By British and American planes.)			
	FAR EAST.			
	Reconnaissance over the battle zones.			
16—12—41. (Tuesday)				
	(By British planes).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
NIGHT :—				
	The Naval base at WILHELMSHAVEN. **BREMEN** and **other towns** in North-west GERMANY. **The docks** at OSTEND, DUNKIRK and BREST. **Aerodromes** in occupied FRANCE. **Laying mines** in Enemy waters.	Docks burnt out.	1 plane.	
	LIBYA.			
	Air duel over TMIMI-GAZALA area	Shot down.		1 plane.
	Motor transport on the road south of JADABAYA. **Objectives** at BENINA. **Isolated enemy positions** at BARDIA **Workshops and motor transport** at BARDIA. **ITALY.** **Enemy Naval units** in TARANTO harbour.		3 planes.	
	(By Russian planes)			
	EASTERN FRONT.			
	Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole front.		No loss.	7 planes.
	(By British and American planes.)			
	FAR EAST.			
	PHILIPPINES.			
	Japanese vessels off LEGASPI.	1 vessel sunk.		

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.	Aircraft losses for the enemies.
17—12—41.	**(Wednesday).**			
	(By British planes).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
	DAY :—			
	The Naval base at BREST.	German battle-ships hit.		
	NIGHT :—			
	The Naval base and German battle-ships at BREST.			
	LIBYA.			
	Concentrations of enemy mechanised transport in LIBYA.			
	The landing ground at BARCE.			15 planes damaged.
	Enemy fuel carrying transport in the ZUARA region.	Several petrol carrying tankers blown up.		
	Enemy motor transport along the road between EL AGHEILA and TMIMI.		7 planes.	
	Air combats over LIBYA.			2 planes.
	ITALY.			
	The Naval headquarters and the railway station at BRINDISI.			
	SICILY.			
	The aerodromes at CATANIA and GHERBINI.			
	(By Russian planes).			
	EASTERN FRONT.			
	Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole battlefield.		1 plane.	7 planes.
	(By British and American planes.)			
	FAR EAST.			
	Japanese installations on GREENWICH Island.			
	Reconnissance over the Western PACIFIC.			
18—12—41.	**(Thursday).**			
	(By British planes.)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
	No information available.			

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.	Aircraft losses for the enemies.
18—12—41.	(Thursday)—*cont.*			
	LIBYA.			
	Road communications and motorised units west of MECHELLI.	Heavy casualties and many vehicles damaged.		
	Landing grounds in CYRENICA	Many planes damaged.		
	The aerodromes at BENINA and BERKA.			
	The harbour and shipping at BENGHAZI.			
	MEDITERRANEAN.			
	An enemy tanker escorted by a destroyer in the central MEDITERRANEAN.	Tanker sunk; Fire and explosions started.		
	(By Russian planes)			
	EASTERN FRONT.			
	Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole front.		3 planes.	5 planes.
	(By British and American planes).			
	FAR EAST.			
	THAILAND.			
	Enemy planes at SINGORA.	Many planes destroyed.		
19—12—41.	(Friday)			
	(By British planes).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
	No information available as to day and night operations.			
	LIBYA.			
	Retreating enemy units on the road leading from ALFAIDIA to BARCE and in the area west of MECHELLI. **Lorries, trucks, fieldguns, armoured fighting vehicles and motor transports** in the battle zone. **Motor units** west of MECHELLI. **The aerodrome** at BENINA. **Targets** at BENGHAZI.	Huge fires started.	4 planes.	

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.	Aircraft losses for the enemies.
19—12—41. (Friday.)—*cont.*				
	(By Russian planes).			
	EASTERN FRONT.			
	Air combats and aircraft over the aerodromes along the whole front.			
20—12—41. (Saturday).				
	(By British planes.)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
	No information available as to day and night operations.			
	LIBYA.			
	Retreating motorised units in the BARCE, TOKRA and EL ABIR areas.			
	Aerodrome and aircraft on the aerodrome at BARCE.	Many planes on the ground damaged.		3 planes.
	The railway station at ZUARA.			
	A motor transport enclosure at FORT ARTESIAN.			
	Enemy fuel carrying vehicles and other transport at JADABAYA.			1 plane.
	(By Russian planes).			
	EASTERN FRONT.			
	Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole Front.			
	Retreating enemy units along the whole Russian Front.			
	(By British and American planes.)			
	FAR EAST.			
	WAKE Island.			
	HONGKONG.			
21—12—41. (Sunday.)				
	(By British planes).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
NIGHT :—				
	Objectives at ST. NAZAIRE. **Offensive sweeps** over Northern FRANCE.		1 bomber.	

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.	Aircraft losses for the enemies.
21—12—41. (Sunday)—*cont.*				
	LIBYA.			
	Concentrations of enemy mechanical transport on roads along the sea board of Gulf of SIRTE.			
	Enemy troops and Lorries in the JADABAYA region.			
	Aircraft on the aerodromes along the battle Zone.			6 planes. Many more damaged.
	Air combats over the battle Zone.			10 planes.
	(By Russian planes). **EASTERN FRONT.**			
	Air combats along the Front.			4 planes.
	(By British and American planes). **FAR EAST.**			
	Japanese troop transport ships off SARAWAK.			
22—12—41. (Monday).				
	(By British planes). **GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.**			
NIGHT :—				
	The Naval base at WILHELMSHAVEN.	No loss.		
	Patrol over occupied COUNTRIES.		1 plane.	
	LIBYA.			
	The aerodrome at CASTEL BENITO.			
	Motor transport dispersal area at TRIPOLI.			
	Enemy mechanised units in the battle Zone (around BENGHAZI).			
	(By Russian planes). **EASTERN FRONT.**			
	Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole Front.			
	(By British and American planes). **FAR EAST.** **PHILIPPINES.**			
	Enemy troop ships off DAVAO.			

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.	Aircraft losses for the enemies.
22—12—41.	**(Monday)**—*cont.*			
	MALAYA.			
	Reconnaissance over Northern MALAYA.			
	THAILAND.			
	The aerodrome at SUNGEI PATANI.			
23—12—41.	**(Tuesday).**			
	(By British planes).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
	No information available.			
	LIBYA.			
	The aerodrome at AREPHILAENORUN.			
	The landing ground at EL AGHEILA.			
	Motorised convoys laden with troops and stores on the SIRTE-MISURATA road and to the west of EL-AGHEILA.	Petrol tankers and lorries destroyed.		
	Mechanised units near JADABAYA.		1 plane.	
	(By Russian planes)			
	EASTERN FRONT.			
	Air combats and aircraft on the aerodrome along the whole Front.			
	(By British and American planes)			
	FAR EAST.			
	PHILIPPINES.			
	Japanese army positions in PHILIPPINES.			
	MALAYA.			
	Japanese army in North-East MALAYA.			
24—12—41.	**(Wednesday).**			
	(By British planes)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
	No information available.			
	LIBYA.			
	Enemy motorised convoys retreating westwards into TRIPOLITANIA.	many vehicles damaged.		
	Aerodroms at EL AGHEILA and NOFILIA.			1 plane.
	The docks at TRIPOLI.			2 planes.
	Barracks, motor transport, Parks and ordnance depots at MISURATA.	Fires started.	3 planes.	

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.	Aircraft losses for the enemies.
24—12—41.	**(Wednesday)**—*cont.*			
	(By Russian planes)			
	EASTERN FRONT.			
	Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole front.		11 planes.	24 planes.
	(By British and American planes)			
	FAR EAST.			
	Japanese shipping off KUCHING.	1 vessel sunk.		
	Reconnaissance over North-West and North-East MALAYA.			
25—12—41.	**(Thursday).**			
	(By British planes)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-Occupied EUROPE.			
	No information available.			
	LIBYA.			
	Concentrations of enemy motor transport, armoured fighting vehicles and guns South-West of JADABAYA.			
	Objectives at TRIPOLI.	Big fires started.		
	(By Russian planes)			
	EASTERN FRONT.			
	Air combats along the whole Front.			
	Retreating enemy troops along the whole battle area.			
26—12—41.	**(Friday).**			
	(By British planes).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
	No information available.			
	LIBYA.			
	Enemy motorised units in the JADABAYA area.	Very heavily damaged.		
	Two merchant ships in the harbour at ZUARA (TRIPOLITANIA).	One ship blown up.		
	The harbour and ships at TRIPOLI.	Large fires started.		
	Enemy transport moving from TRIPOLI towards HOMS.		1 plane	

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bambardment.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.	Aircraft losses for the enemies.

26—12—41. (Friday.)—*cont.*

(By Russian planes)

EASTERN FRONT.

	Air combats along the whole Front.			

(By British and American planes)

FAR EAST.

	Enemy transport and troop ships off KUCHING (SARAWAK).			

27—12—41. (Saturday).

(By British planes).

GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.

NIGHT :—

	Industrial districts at DUSSELDORF.	Many fires started.		
	An aerodrome at SOESTERBERG.			
	The Naval base at BREST.			
	The docks at BOULOGNE.			
	Laying mines in enemy waters.		7 bombers.	
	An aerodrome at SOLA (NORWAY).			

LIBYA.

	Enemy motor transport on the JEDABAYAH EL AGHIELA road.	Many lorries damaged.		
	Quays at CASTELLO railway station.			
	The harbour at TRIPOLI.	Big explosions started.		
	Enemy motor transport south of MARSETMARCAN and at ZUARA.		1 plane.	

(By Russian planes.)

(EASTERN FRONT.)

	Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole front.		3 planes.	8 planes.

(By British and American planes.)

FAR EAST.

	A small Japanese cruiser off MINAHASA (CELEBES).	Set on fire.		

THAILAND.

	The Japanese aerodrome at SUNGEI PATANI.			10 planes.

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.	Aircraft losses for the enemies.
28—12—41. (Sunday.)				
	(By British planes.)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN occupied EURORE.			
	NIGHT :—			
	The Naval bases at WILHELMSHAVEN and EMDEN.			
	The Industrial districts in the RHINELAND.			
	The docks at DUNKIRK.			
	Enemy aerodromes in HOLLAND **shipping** off the DUTCH coast.			
	Enemy occupied aerodromes and other targets in occupied FRANCE and HOLLAND.			
	Marshalling yards at BETHUNE.		7 planes.	
	LIBYA.			
	BARDIA.			
	Shipping near TRIPOLI.			
	Air combat over GAZALA.			2 planes.
	Motor transport in the MELLAHA region.			
	The main quay at TRIPOLI.			
	Enemy motor transport and gun positions in HALFAYA PASS.			
	(By Russian planes.)			
	EASTERN FRONT.			
	Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole battle front.		6 planes.	28 planes.
	(By British and American planes.)			
	FAR EAST.			
	THAILAND.			
	The aerodrome at SUNGEI PATANI.			
	Reconnaissances over enemy occupied territories.			

ENEMY Air Raids over ALLIED Territories.

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Enemy aircraft losses.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.
16—12—41. (Tuesday).				
	(By German planes.) **BRITAIN.**			
NIGHT :—				
	Two places in the South-west ENGLAND.	Slight damage and a few casualties.		
	(By Japanese planes). **FAR EAST.** **PHILIPPINES.**			
	American troops on the Islands	...	4 planes.	
17—12—41. (Wednesday.)				
	(By German planes) **BRITAIN.**			
	No information available.			
	(By Japanese planes). **FAR EAST.** **MALAYA.**			
	PENANG.			
	PHILIPPINES.			
	American positions in the LUZON and APARRI areas.			
18—12—41. (Thursday)				
	(By German planes). **BRITAIN.**			
	No information available.			
	RUSSIA.			
	MOSCOW	...	3 planes.	
	(By Japanese planes). **FAR EAST.**			
	HONGKONG.			
19—12—41. (Friday).				
	(By German planes). **BRITAIN.**			
	No information available.			
	(By Japanese planes). **FAR EAST.** **PHILIPPINES.**			
	MANILA.			
	The city of ILOILO on the Island of PANAY, south of LUZON.			
	WAKE Island.			
	Many points in WAKE Island.			

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Enemy aircraft losses.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.
20—12—41. (Saturday).				
	(By German planes).			
	BRITAIN.			
	Coastal districts in North-west ENGLAND.	Slight damage and one person injured.		
	(By Japanese planes.)			
	FAR EAST.			
	BORNEO.			
	Allied positions in North BORNEO.			
	PONTIANAK in Netherlands West **BORNEO.**			
	HONGKONG.			
	(By German planes.)			
	MEDITERRANEAN.			
	MALTA.			
21—12—41. (Sunday).				
	(By German planes).			
	BRITAIN.			
	No information available.			
	(By Japanese planes).			
	MALAYA.			
	KAULA LUMPUR	...	2 planes.	1 plane.
	PHILIPPINES.			
	Islands of LUZON, CEBU and MINDANAO.			
22—12—41. (Monday.)				
	(By German planes).			
	BRITAIN.			
	No information available.			
	MEDITERRANEAN.			
	MALTA.			1 fighter.
23—12—41. (Tuesday).				
	(By German planes).			
	BRITAIN.			
	NIGHT :—			
	A few points on the **Coastal areas** of ENGLAND.	Some houses damaged ; a few casualties.		

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Enemy aircraft losses.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.
23—12—41.	(Tuesday)—*cont.*			
		MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA	...	1 fighter.	
		(By Japanese planes).		
		FAR EAST.		
		PHILIPPINES.		
	Evacuation centre in MANILA.			
		MALAYA.		
	KUALA LUMPUR	...	2 planes.	
24—12—41.	**(Wednesday).**			
		(By German planes).		
		BRITAIN.		
	No information available.			
		MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA	...	3 planes.	
		(By Japanese planes).		
		EAR EAST.		
		PHILIPPINES.		
	MANILA.			
25—12—41.	**(Thursday).**			
		(By German planes).		
		BRITAIN.		
	NIGHT :—			
	One place on the East coast of ENGLAND.	No damage or casualties.		
		MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA.			
		(By Japanese planes).		
		FAR EAST.		
		MALAYA.		
	Dive-bombing British positions in North-east MALAYA.			
26—12—41.	**(Friday).**			
		(By German planes).		
		BRITAIN.		
	No information available.			
		(By Japanese planes).		
		FAR EAST.		
		PHILIPPINES.		
	MANILA.			

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Enemy aircraft losses.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.
27—12—41. (Saturday).				
		(By German planes).		
		BRITAIN.		
	No information available.			
		MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA	...	1 plane.	
		ATLANTIC.		
	A British convoy in the ATLANTIC ...		1 bomber.	
		(By Japanese planes).		
		FAR EAST.		
	Aerodrome at BORNEO	... 1 civilian injured.		
28—12—41. (Sunday.)				
		(By German planes).		
		BRITAIN.		
	NIGHT :—			
	One point on the East coast of ENGLAND.	Planes driven away.		
		RUSSIA.		
	MOSCOW	...	4 planes.	
		(By Japanese planes).		
		FAR EAST.		
		MALAYA.		
	IPOH.			
29—12—41. (Monday).				
		(By German planes).		
		BRITAIN.		
	NIGHT :—			
	Various points in North-east ENGLAND.	Slight damage.	3 planes.	
		(By Japanese planes).		
		FAR EAST.		
		SUMATRA.		
	MEDAN.			
		MALAYA.		
	Port SWETTENHAM.			
		PHILIPPINES.		
	MANILA.			
		(By German planes).		
		MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA	...	12 planes (28th & 29th) many more damaged.	

SIDE LIGHTS.

END OF A CHAPTER. The chapter is ten years old. When JAPAN faked the MUKDEN incident in 1931, she kindled the spark of what is now a fire in full blast. The war is world-wide, and those who were able to study Nazism at close quarters know that the mighty conflagration is the deliberate work of what are known—to use the politest term—as the aggressor Powers. JAPAN was the first to test the will and ability of peaceful nations to oppose international banditry by collective action. Half a dozen rapes have been committed unpunished since. There have been until very recently no formal declarations of war, and step by step, through ten years of intense political activity in GERMANY, ITALY and JAPAN, the lack of cohesion of the democracies has encouraged the marauders, and confirmed them in the validity of their conscienceless theories.

At last, through the slow processes of history, collective action has come, too late to prevent the Axis acquiring important strategic advantages, and too soon to avoid the initial handicap of the resources of the Democracies not being geared up to the pitch effected by the aggressors by means of ruthless sacrifices imposed upon their populations—but at last the action of the peaceful powers *is* collective. Its potential effect is so enormous that with total effort ultimate victory is perfectly certain, and the new year discloses the beginning of the fading of an evil and once-terrifying dream, of the nightmare of world domination by Hitlerism.

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AUCHINLECK'S CHRISTMAS BOX. The CAIRO G. H. Q. communiqués lately have not suffered from the over-optimism of which certain war correspondents were guilty earlier in the Libyan compaign, so when they say that with the capture of BENGHAZI CYRENAICA is "in our hands," and that the "Axis forces (or what is left of them) are in full retreat", we may be confident that things have gone really well for the Allies in North AFRICA.

It must be remembered, however, that an enemy withdrawal is not enough to provide us with the victory the Eighth Army so well deserve. Only the "destruction of the armoured forces of the enemy" will bring that in full measure. So it is painfully exciting to listen in for news of the impending major battle between what is presumably the bulk of Rommel's remaining mechanized, (and mostly Afrika Corps), troops, and the British forces sweeping round to the Gulf of Sirte from the south, in the effort to intercept the foe as they flee for protection towards TRIPOLI.

Before these notes go to press we ought to know the result of the final battle near JEDABYA, and the real meaning of the various hints lately published about the objectives of the Eighth Army after they have completed their splendid Libyan adventure.

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THE MOST SURPRISED PEOPLE OF MODERN TIMES. So Raymond Gram Swing, the famous American broadcaster, described his people on the first day of the Japanese attack. It may seem to us who have heard for years that the "Japanese menace" was the one live foreign interest of the average American citizen, that 'surprised' is a somewhat weak epithet to excuse an extraordinary unpreparedness in Intelligence and Military departments. The fact seems to be that while intellectually aware that the Japanese were a dangerous nation, the average American was still living emotionally in the last century, when their great continent could not be *seriously* threatened by any enemy, and when the choice of war or peace was entirely in their own hands.

Now their territory *has* been attacked, and an enemy has had the impertinence to make war upon them, and the first feelings of anger and humiliation are giving way to a general and grim determination to see the thing through thoroughly and adequately, a determination voiced by even such stalwart and disaffected isolationists as Wheeler and Lindbergh.

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WHAT THE JAPS HAVE TAKEN ON. JAPAN'S use of the 'surprise' element has been as brilliant in execution as it was dastardly in conception, and it must take some time for AMERICA to get into top gear. But it may be as well to remind ourselves of the size of the mouthful which the former have bitten off.

(*a*) The U. S. A. Navy, which started the war with 17 battleships, 7 aircraft-carriers, 37 cruisers 171 destroyers and 111 submarines, has also in building 15 battleships, 11 aircraft-carriers, 54 cruisers, 192 destroyers and 73 submarines.

This more-than-doubling of an already large fleet was, not due for *completion* we believe, before 1945, but that some of it is already afloat and more of it will now be tremendously expedited, seems certain from the scope of the emergency measures immediately taken by a vigorous and implacable President, with the full consent (bar one pacifist) of a unified Congress.

(*b*) Their Hawaian losses have already been replaced, and the complete change of commands there denotes a determination to insist on rigorous efficiency.

(*c*) *All* American land forces all over the world have been retained in service, and made immediately liable for service anywhere on earth; all men between 18 and 65 are being registered; and all from 20 to 44 are liable for military service.

(*d*) The President has taken sole control of censorship and 7,000,000,000 dollars worth of property, i. e., factories, airfields, etc., etc., etc.

(*e*) There is already a 168 hour week's work imposed on all war-factories, where Congress has sanctioned an extra 10,000,000,000 dollar expenditure.

(*f*) Apart from the already enormous number—about 2,400—of airplanes production for the Allies, American factories will now also produce an extra 1,000 large bombers a month.

(*g*) Ninety ocean-going ships will be launched within the next three months.

(*h*) Tank production—now 800 a month—is to be 4,800 a month within a year.

(*i*) Isolationism is stone-cold dead. Both the rival Labour chiefs Murray and Lewis have pledged full war effort from their mighty labour-groups.

All AMERICA, therefore, from President to Isolationist, from industrial magnate to factory-hand, is "going to it." When AMERICA hustles, things move, and JAPAN'S mouthful will be worse than unswallowable!

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HITLER FACES FAILURE. Russian resistance has set Hitler a world-wide problem. He saw his victorious armies falter and then halt; he now sees them in actual and costly retreat. Behind the Russians, he sees a great network of supplies from BRITAIN and AMERICA being constructed, and he realises that instead of beginning a great swing eastwards and southwards in the spring, with the enormous resources of an enslaved RUSSIA behind him, there is a serious danger of his finest armies being held down and mauled to death. RUSSIA, instead of becoming his reservoir, looks like becoming his 'running sore', and he obviously feels that "something must be done"—and that very rapidly—especially as a serious new threat to the Axis flank is developing in LIBYA.

Two steps seem to have been decided on to save the situation. The first was the diversion of air and mechanized troops to AFRICA in an attempt to turn a defeat into a victory...and the second was an attempt to isolate RUSSIA from her powerful Allies, BRITAIN and AMERICA, by throwing in JAPAN to force these latter on to the defensive in the Pacific. If supplies to RUSSIA through the CAUCASUS or VLADIVOSTOK could be reduced to a mere trickle,

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another German thrust for the great essential, oil, might be practicable in the spring and summer of 1942. All GERMANY knows that unless great supplies of oil *are* made available, Hitler's position will become desperate.

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THE GREAT GAMBLE. The terrific price the most formidable of all gamblers has paid for his latest essay is the welding of the Americen people into a united and fiercely-determined belligerent. Immediate dangers to the Allies from Hitler's deliberate widening of the field of conflict are necessarily increased, and possibly Hitler has still more plots to hatch, which will further widen the A. B. C. D.'s responsibilities and risks. But the point is that they now know, all of them, and in complete concert, what they are up against, and there are excellent signs of an integration of strategy and supply arrangements to be found in the visit of Mr. Churchill and his departmental leaders to Mr. Roosevelt for Christmas 'holidays'. They have, at least, a comforting preface to work on, namely that the lavishly prepared machine of world conquest appears to be creaking under the shock of the explosion of the German-invincibility myth.

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A CORPORAL SACKS COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF! We reprint an extract from a broadcast by Major Lewis Hastings on Hitler's latest astonishing performance in assuming military command of the German forces in RUSSIA. "When Hitler returned to BERLIN on Oct., 2 to make that strange speech urging the German armies to complete a decisive victory, the man was under exceptional emotional strain. The closer the study that is made of the speech...the more certain is this. There is no longer any doubt that grave differences of opinion then existed between Hitler himself and the members of his General Staff, but the politician and the prophet was too powerful, and the German masses rolled forward to their doom.'

And now Von Brauchitsch, and Von Keitel and Von Bock too have been discarded, and a corporal steps in where marshals fear to tread. Will the apathy and resignation of the German masses at once change to enthusiasm at this news ?!

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ECHOES IN ITALY. The Italians don't believe the German announcement that "Even if the British won the battle of LIBYA it will have no influence on the outcome of the war." A state of emergency has been proclaimed in the Southern provinces, and the braggart Gayda, in his paper, *Giornale d' Italia* has crystallised the feelings of GERMANY'S great (?) ally, when he wrote: "LIBYA means the Mediterranean. The only possible solution for us is victory." And what a hope ?!

NAVAL FORCES OF BRITAIN, U. S. AND JAPAN.

by

*the Naval Correspondent of the "**Daily Telegraph.**"*

It would be useless to blink the fact that we have suffered a serious naval disaster in the Far East. Such disasters have happened before in the history of the Royal Navy. In such circumstances the immediate task of the Admiralty is to determine the steps to be taken to retrieve the situation, and, in whatever action develops, the United States Navy is bound to be intimately concerned. It is well to take stock of the forces at the disposal of ourselves and our American ally.

We possess 14 more capital ships, and the United States, excluding the *Oklahoma*, has 16, compared with Japan's ten. Certain of our battleships are in the Mediterranean, containing the Italian Fleet. Others are needed to provide against the possibility of the surviving German battleships, *Tirpitz*, *Gneisenau* and *Scharnhorst*, breaking out into the Atlantic. Provision must also be made for ships in need of refit and repair. Even after this computation, there should be a possibility of sparing more capital ships for operations in the Far East.

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET.

The United States Pacific Fleet, before it was attacked by Japanese torpedo-carrying aircraft, had 12 battleships at Pearl Harbour. In the Atlantic there are five more, two of which, *Washington* and *North Carolina*, are quite new ships of 35,000 tons. These without difficulty could be transferred to the Pacific through the Panama Canal, more than making up any deficiency caused by the losses inflicted in Japan's attack so far. The distances involved, however, are so immense—Panama, for instance, is practically 8,000 miles from Manila—that the Japanese are likely to effect a good many conquests in the meantime.

There is little hope for the United States Asiatic Fleet of two cruisers, a dozen destroyers, two sloops, 18 submarines, a seaplane tender and some small craft, all based on Cavite, Manila. It is likely to be overwhelmed by the Japanese Fleet within a very short time, after which there is nothing to prevent an invasion of the Philippines. Nor is the East Indies Squadron of the Royal Netherland Navy in a position to fight more than a delaying action. It includes three cruisers, seven destroyers, 12 submarines and a number of auxiliary warships of various descriptions.

WAR LENGTHENED.

Unquestionably, therefore, the effect of what has happened will be to lengthen the war, as it will take longer now to achieve ultimate victory. Yet, with the immense resources at the disposal of the Anglo-American Fleets—to say nothing of the fine fighting qualities of our Russian ally on land—the end of the struggle is not in doubt. It is the consideration of these facts that has impelled the Japanese to go "all out" in securing an early series of successes, since they know that their staying power is limited.

There are under construction for the Royal Navy a number of other battleships, of which two are presumed to be near completion. These are the 35,000-ton *Anson* and *Howe*, sister ships of *King George V*, *Prince of Wales* and *Duke of York*.

The United States Navy has no fewer than 15 battleships in hand. Three of these, *Indiana*, *Massachusetts* and *South Dakota*, are already launched, and the fourth, *Alabama*, is due to go afloat next month. At least two should be able to commission before the end of next year, though of course, they would need a period in which to "shake down" before they could be considered ready for action.

JAPANESE REINFORCEMENTS.

This, of course, raises the question what reinforcements Japan could bring forward. So far as can be ascertained, she had only ten battleships available when war began. Of these, the two newest were designed during the last War, and the four oldest date back to 1911–12, though all of them have been reconstructed and modernised. Four or five battleships believed to be of about 45,000 tons with 16-inch guns were laid down during 1937–39, but it is believed that shortage of material delayed their delivery. Two or three vessels of the "pocket battleship" type are also understood to be under construction, but so far none is known to have been finished.

CONCENTRATION ON AIRCRAFT CARRIERS?

Apparently, Japan has concentrated most of her energy on the completion of aircraft carriers, of which at least eight believed now to be in service are the 26,900-ton *Akgi* and *Kaga*, which are probably the ships which carried out the air attack on Pearl Harbour; the 17,000-ton *Syokaku* and *Zuikaku*, completed this year; and the *Soryu*, *Hiryu*, *Ryuzyo* and *Hosyo*, of between 7,000 and 11,000 tons.

Though the Japanese may overrun the Philippines, it will take them some time to conquer the many islands of the Dutch East Indies, especially those more densely populated. That the Indies, with their coveted booty of oil, rubber, tin and other much-needed products, are more immediate objects of Japanese cupidity there can be no question.

SOME EFFORT!!

BRITISH RAILWAYS' CONTRIBUTION TO SOVIET LIFE-LINE

LOCOMOTIVES AND OTHER ROLLING STOCK FOR IRAN

A NEW WAGGON TURNED OUT EVERY 37 MINUTES

TECHNICAL STAFF TO TACKLE TRANSPORT PROBLEMS IN IRAN

by

A Railway Engineer.

TO speed up supplies to the Russian armies, and to make possible the transport of increasing quantities of war materials through Iran, locomotives and other rolling stock from British railways are being sent overseas. As soon as it was possible for supplies to pass through Iran, members of railway staffs travelled by air to investigate the requirements at first hand. Reports received were quickly approved, and cargoes of the necessary equipment were collected and despatched. Further railway materials were prepared to assist Iran's railways to carry the supplies which were *en route* aboard ships from different parts of the world.

SPECIALLY EQUIPPED ENGINES.

One hundred and forty-two powerful British-built railway freight locomotives, specially equipped for service overseas with tenders and necessary spare parts, were despatched. Some are *already in service. Before being sent overseas, these engines were fitted with oil-burning apparatus, to enable them to use oil-fuel. Women helped in locomotive workshops to prepare these engines. The loss in engine power is being shared among all the railways.

In addition, 1,000 steel-framed 12 ton waggons have been completed in double-quick time. Waggon timbers were cut from logs by one railway, which also supplied certain iron work details. Another railway provided stampings of standard waggon parts and quantities of timber. By night and day shifts at the assembling works, the 1,800 parts required to complete each waggon were

* NOTE:—This article was written on November 24.

fitted together, so that a new waggon was turned out every 37 minutes. Within a fortnight of the order being given, the first consignment of 50 waggons, packed in parts for assembly on arrival at their destination, was despatched.

AN IMPRESSIVE ACHIEVEMENT.

Men and women in railway workshops followed this up by achieving an output which would be scheduled in peace-time as 12 months' work in ten weeks.

The technical staff is remaining overseas to supervise the tasks already undertaken, and will be augmented when necessary. Many problems of transport are being overcome in Iran by the railway and road engineering and operating staffs so that many tons of war machines, munitions and materials may be moved through precipitous mountains to the Eastern Front. Apart from using to the fullest possible extent the remarkable trans-Iran railway with its tunnels and heavy gradients, new railways are under construction. Dynamic efforts are also being made to organise transport by alternative routes.

INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION.

The Empire countries are helping wholeheartedly. Indian equipment and personnel are being sent to augment the metre gauge railways of Baluchistan and Iraq. Australia is reported to be sending engines and rolling stock worth £ 1,000,000, and the appointment is announced of Sir Godfrey Rhodes, General Manager of the Kenya and Uganda railways and harbours, a Canadian-born specialist in transport problems, who assisted in the recent East African campaigns, as Director of Transport in Iran.

WITH AN INDIAN DIVISION AT SIDI OMAR
HOW GENERAL ROMMEL'S TANKS WERE DEALT WITH
JOURNALIST'S EXPERIENCE OF AN AIR RAID.

by

Quentin Reynolds.

(*The well known American Journalist*).

(*In a recent B. B. C. Talk*).

I have just returned from the front where I spent a week with an Indian Division. The Division has been seeing heavy action during the past five days at Sidi Omar—a week ago, just a spot on a war map, but now one of the focal points of the entire Libyan campaign.

For a week the Indians, and especially a Southern County Regiment that was part of the Division, have been bearing the brunt of General Rommel's attack on Sidi Omar.

The attack came by land and by air. Thousands of shells were hurled at this mile-square plateau in the desert. Despite this attack by every known method of land and air warfare, to-day Sidi Omar stands firm in the trackless desert, and the Southern County Regiment (which for the moment for military reasons must remain anonymous) instead of playing a defensive role, is attacking on all sides, with every confidence that within a week it will have completely cleared the region of Italian artillery and German tank and infantry forces.

Only then can the complete history of this inspiring military saga be written. After two days of heavy shelling, during which Italian guns sent more than one thousand •60-pound shells screaming into the plateau known as Sidi Omar, the German tanks swung into action against us.

The General commanding the Division smiled a bit grimly when he was informed that 50 large Hun tanks were 'en route', and then he gave the stock order which has made this Indian Division so feared by the Huns. "Attack and pursue!" was his command, his only command.

We were isolated on a mile-square island on this desert sea, with scanty communications and short food rations, but there was no thought of defensive fighting in the minds of either officers or men. This British desert army is an attacking force, and it does not think in terms of defence.

At noon on Tuesday, November 25, we heard the unmistakable quick sharp report of tank guns, and we knew that the attack had begun. Within an hour, word came to us that seven Hun tanks had been destroyed, and then the tanks themselves came into view, moving in single file a new departure in German tank tactics.

There were not 50 of them, there were 23, and seven had been left smoking behind. They came on swiftly, and now we could see that most of them were the Mark IV type, General Rommel's pets.

They started to fire at 7,000 yards with their heavy 75s, they kept coming towards us, and still the British artillery supporting the Indian Division held its fire.

Then came the order, and the guns spoke.

We stood on top of lorries there on our plateau watching this amazing battle between artillery and tanks. Even when the shells came whistling over us, feathering their way over our heads to land 130 yards from us, we could not tear our eyes away from the amazing drama being played less than a mile away.

The shells bit into the ground in front of the tanks, raising huge clouds of desert dust. The intense sun of the mid-day bathed the whole scene in a golden setting. The shells were bursting closer now, and the tanks were hidden in clouds of dust and smoke from their own guns.

A sudden brisk breeze swept over the battlefield to clear the air and to reveal the entire theatre of this desert drama to us. It also revealed three tanks leaning drunkenly with heavy columns of smoke spiralling from them.

The Southern County soldiers I was standing with broke out into cheers, derisive cheers. We might have been watching a cup tie match.

Two more of the giant tanks received direct hits, the others moved uncertainly now, like bewildered people being attacked by mosquitoes they cannot see.

Within an hour eight of them had been destroyed as we watched, which made the morning bag fifteen; two others had been so badly wounded that they could not get away.

Finally the remaining tanks limped across the horizon, but the guns followed them.

Later Indian sappers snaked through the minefield guarding our plateau to put any wounded tanks they could find out of their misery, lest the Hun come back during the night to apply first aid.

Even bully beef tasted good that night, as we huddled in the slit trenches over small fires that had to be put out when darkness fell, but anything would have tasted good that night.

Rommel is generally considered to be Germany's best tank commander. We had seen artillery supported by nothing more substantial than our enthusiastic cheers put most of this command out of action.

The patrols went out at dusk. In addition to khaki-clad members of the Southern County Regiment, there were the colourful Sikhs, their black beards and white turbans seeming part of the desert, two formidable groups of determined men looking for trouble.

Their job is to pick up prisoners, and mop up any enemy patrols that might be out. The rest of us slept,

trying to dodge the numbing cold of the desert night by huddling together in the bottom of the shallow trenches the Italians had so obligingly dug for us a few weeks before when they held this plateau.

Our awakening was rude. At 4-40 on the 26th morning, the silence of the night was broken by the roar of aeroplane motors.

We awoke wondering whether they were ours or—theirs! We were not left long in doubt. A flare suddenly blossomed in the darkness of the sky above to banish the night, and to bathe the desert in a penetrating white light; two others followed, and then we knew that we were in for it.

Our hundreds of lorries and our guns were silhouetted brightly now against the whiteness of the sand, and we knew that from above the shadows made by our trenches must stand out like charcoal marks on white paper.

The steady drone of the Hun aeroplane turned into a high whine as he pulled back the stick and dived, the wind screaming through the struts and wires of his plane as he hurled himself earthwards at 500 miles on hour.

Then his machine gun and his cannon added to the hideous cacophony of this Symphony of Desert War. The noise increased till our eardrums tingled and then, less than 50 feet above us, he dropped his bomb.

For a moment the world was a chaos of reverberating noise, as the sides of our trench trembled and loosened and threw chunks of sand and rock upon us. For a moment the blast and the concussion overcame our consciousness.

The plane zoomed upward, and only then did we realise that, incredibly, we were alive.

He dropped more flares and we shrunk into the bottom of the three-foot deep trenches, but he was not alone this time—there were five of them now.

For forty minutes they drove at us furiously, and the early morn became a nightmare that will live with us for ever. A lorry 30 feet from my ten foot strech of trench went up in flames and they used it as a target.

Again and again they dived, and each time was more hideous than the last. Then, finally, a faint shade of turquoise blue showed in the East, it changed to aquamarine, and then to more prosaic but welcome golden dawn.

With its approach the Hun planes dropped 100 lb. high explosives on us, and then left. We lay there for a time, too exhausted to move, too dazed to know whether or not we had been hit.

The light brightened, ambulance drivers appeared, asking anxiously: "Anybody hit?" when a lad from the Southern County Regiment in the next trench bawled out: "The dirty blighters made us late for our morning tea!"

The spell was broken, we could climb out of the trenches, laugh at the filth of our clothes and our cuts and bruises from flying stones and say weakly, and quite untruthfully, that it hadn't been so bad after all.

This is the ruthless, Spartan-like, tough army that Britain has been waiting for. During the past four days, this small fragment of it I was with took over 1,000 prisoners in the vicinity of Sidi Omar, it destroyed 18 tanks, and its losses, beyond the tanks lost in the attack on Sidi Omar, have been negligible.

And yet we were in one sense besieged there on top of the plateau. The shelling continued on the 26th and we could not leave Sidi Omar. One or two Italian artillery batteries were strongly entrenched on two sides of us. Groups of Germans with tanks and armoured cars were wandering about the desert on all sides.

I talked with the General on the 26th morning and asked him the situation. He said, "We have the beast's head in a box, but he is still lashing out with his tail."

I wanted to get out with the story of these four days of intense fighting, but the nearest cable office was in Cairo, 400 miles away.

The Commanding Officer said that he was sending an Officer out that night with despatches, and if I wanted to run the gauntlet—all right. I did.

We waited until darkness, then got compass bearings. There are neither roads nor signposts in the desert, it must be navigated like the sea.

We crept through the minefield gingerly, and then headed for Army Headquarters, many hours' drive away. At night the Germans sent up periodic flares to guard against surprise attack. We waited for the greenish-white flares, and then scurried around them.

Sometimes there were two flares in front of us and we drove between them, holding our breath and very conscious of the fact that the noise from our motor could be heard for miles in the now still desert air

Once three Hun tanks loomed ahead of us—we drove past them trying to feel nonchalant. They didn't stop us. We made it finally after an all-night drive, and then I came to Cairo. I have only one regret and that is that I cannot name for military reasons the Southern County Regiment with the Indian Division.

Its name should be shouted so loudly that the four winds would carry it to Valhalla where the great regiments of the past dwell in immortality, so that they might know that there are still regiments in Britain worthy to stand in their company, that there are still giants in the land.

AN IDEA MERCHANT DEALS IN FACTS.

by

J. B. Priestly, in unusual mood—

(Part of a B. B. C. talk.)

We're frequently told here that what overseas listeners chiefly want from us are facts. Now if that's the truth, and the whole truth, then I can't be

said to have done very well for my listeners lately because my talks, haven't dealt with facts, but with ideas. By the way, don't think for a moment I'm really apologising because I've given you ideas instead of facts. In this war we have to get our ideas straight; it's urgently necessary that we should understand what it is all about. Nevertheless if you still pine for facts, for once I'll try to oblige you.

CASUALTIES.

Now facts about what ? Well, from me they must obviously be facts about our war effort and wartime life here. Let's begin with air-raid casualties. Up to the end of August this year I estimated 42,943 persons to be killed and 53,482 persons seriously injured; add these two totals and you will get 96,425 casualties, which is the population of a large town. But here is something rather odd. How many of those ninety-six thousand were personally known to me, guess—not half a dozen !

AIRCRAFT LOSSES.

Now take aircraft losses in the first two years of the war. The R. A. F. lost 3,116 planes ; the Axis lost 8,045 machines, and remember that total only includes planes definitely known to have been destroyed, and does not include the thousands of German planes that were seen to be badly damaged and had probably never reached their bases. The grand total of Axis planes destroyed is probably about ten thousand, and this of course does not include the losses on the Russian front, which are probably between four and five thousand. We can say that some fifteen thousand machines have been smashed, and that must have made Goering think a bit.

EMERGENCY SERVICES.

Now for air-raid services. There are in England and Wales alone 11,500 first-line rest centres established, and accommodation for a further million people in second-line rest centres. There are about a thousand information centres; there are nineteen hundred fixed First-Aid posts, and nine hundred and ninety four mobile units; there are between fourteen and fifteen thousand ambulances.

MORTALITY.

The figures for infantile mortality are 56 per thousand, which is lower than any rate previous to 1938 ; the maternal mortality rate has reached the new low level of 2.61 per thousand. This is partly due to the new wartime maternity hostels that have been set up in reception areas. Thirty thousand babies have been born in these new wartime maternity hostels.

FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Now let's take finance. It is estimated that the war is now costing us between thirteen and fourteen million pounds a day; yield of taxations from

the present financial year should be about £ 1,761,000,000. I read in a bright little periodical produced by the American Outpost in Great Britain that a story is being circulated in the United States that the average American pays more in taxes than the average Briton. This yarn must be one of Goebbels' wildest efforts. I beg every listener to ask for a few facts if he or she should ever hear this nonsensical story. Meanwhile, here are a few facts from our end for comparison. Our rate of income tax is 10s. in the pound, 50%. On top of that for larger incomes is a sur-tax, which begins with 2s. for the first five hundred over two thousand, and then rises steadily to 9s. 6d; this mark you, on top of the 10s. in the pound. I estimated once that in order to be able to spend now what I used to spend every year before the war I should have to earn about £ 70,000 a year. I'am now working two-thirds of every day to pay my direct taxation to the Government, but that's only direct taxation Of the third of my income that I have left, much of it goes in indirect taxation We have a purchase tax of 33⅓% on luxury goods, and 16½% on the whole sale value of essential goods; in addition the duty on things like gasolene, tobacco, liquor, is now fantastically high. Then again the manufacturers have to pay an excess profit tax of 100% on all profits in excess of a pre-war standard Mind you, we're not grumbling—we can take it, but don't let any American citizen imagine that he pays more tax than we do—he doesn't know what taxation is yet.

IS WAR SUPPRESSING DEMOCRACY IN BRITAIN? FAMOUS AMERICAN WRITER'S EMPHATIC "NO".

TREND TOWARDS SOCIALISM—OF A KIND.

RIGHTS FOR PEOPLE COMPATIBLE WITH PRIVATE OWNERSHIP.

By

Dorothy Thompson, the well-known American Writer and Broadcaster, in the Daily Mail—By Arrangement with the Ladies' Home Journal.

If we were asked what is the single most impressive thing I observed in Britain, I would answer immediately: the fact that the war is releasing, not suppressing, democracy in Britain; the fact that people are taking their country back—taking it back from corporations, and taking it back from bureaucrats.

Outside England there is a great deal of talk about what sort of society will follow this war, going on the assumption that the free nations will win it. There is much talk—mostly loose talk—about a socialist England being bound

to come. Mr. Joseph Kennedy, we remember, told the world that Britain would no longer be a democracy but would adapt national socialism; others have predicted that the old school tie would float again as the banner of the nation; still others have predicted full Communism for Britain after the war.

WHAT IS HAPPENING.

The way to find out what is likely to happen is to go and see what is happening; and what is happening is that the spirit of Thomas Jefferson (the third President of the United States and famous apostle of democracy) is a great deal stronger in Britain during the war than the spirit of Karl Marx or Adolf Hitler. In so far as socialism means a better life for all, and a more equal stake in the means of production, Britain will be socialist, and so will the rest of the world. But a socialism which means that a super-state regulates everyone's work, life and thought is not indicated at all. There is a breaking-up of ancient habits of thought and vested privileges, and the people themselves are recapturing initiative and power.

"RIGHT TO GRUMBLE."

Lord Halifax once said in the House of Commons that he would fight for the right to grumble. The right to grumble has not been abandoned. Government has never had to answer more continually to the people than now. And one is startled to see in the wartime organisation of Britain the relative efficiency of the defence services that sprang into being spontaneously and voluntarily, and that are still run by the people who initiated them. In the absolutely unparalleled emergency that confronted the nation with the collapse of France—an emergency that found Britain completely unprepared to resist invasion—it was the people, anonymous men and women whose names are not on Government pay rolls, who displayed resiliency, elasticity and genius in the emergency. Although many bureaucratic efforts have been unsatisfactory as yet, organisation is superb where it has come into being spontaneously as a public response to a necessity.

LABOUR—MANAGEMENT INTERCOURSE.

In the factories trade unions are continually represented in every decision affecting the working conditions of men and women, through a system of ship stewards and works committees, and there is more continuous intercourse between labour and management than ever in Britain's history. Certainly, the people of Britain intend that after this war the factories of Britain, fields and pastures, mines and ships, shall be used to build up the strength and prosperity of Britain as a whole. Certainly, they intend that more attention shall be paid to the health, hygiene and housing of people than was paid before.

MORE PEOPLE HAPPY TO-DAY.

But no one believes that this is incompatible with private property *per se*, or with parliamentary government, or with constitutional monarchy. I am convinced that more people are happy in Britain during this war than in the fear-filled and apathetic time that preceded it. For millions of people realise to-day that they are useful, that they are needed, that each in his way is helping to see Britain and the whole free world through to a better future. And the spirit—and organisation—that finds place for each person to serve not only his own interests but the larger interests of the nation, and that allows each to an amazing extent to choose his own sphere of activity, is true democracy.

THE COMMON MAN'S ACHIEVEMENT.

When the history of these days is finally written, it will have to be said that when Britain nearly perished as the result of 20 years of bad diplomatic policy, when leadership proved itself incapable alone of facing or dealing with the emergency which confronted the nation, people selected new leaders, and so rose in their strength that a national revival swept the nation—and saved it without Storm-Troopers and without the Gestapo. If democracy perishes in Britain, it will not be because the British people did not fight Hitler with all they had; it will be because they were defeated in battle, and because the world's greatest democracy and brother free nation allowed them to perish without adequate aid.

REPORTED GERMAN THREAT TO YUGOSLAVS.

WHOLE POPULATION OF BELGRADE AS HOSTAGES.

DIVE-BOMBING AND ARTILLERY ATTACK UNLESS GUERILLAS SURRENDER?

The greatest Nazi crime on record is being prepared in Yugoslavia. General Dusan Simovitch, Premier of Yugoslavia, told me (writes G. Ward Price in the *Daily Mail*) that he had received sure information of a German plan for **treating the whole population of Belgrade as hostages to be slaughtered by mass execution.** General Simovitch estimates the probable number of intended victims to be 300,000. The purpose of the massacre would be to compel by terrorist methods the surrender of formations of the Yugoslav army, which under General Mihailovitch are continuing the struggle for their country's freedom in the mountains running down the Dalmatian coast.

"The Yugoslav Government in London has already informed Mr. Eden, the British Foreign Secretary, of the atrocious outrage the Nazi Government is preparing", said General Simovitch. "We have also instructed our representative in Washington and the Vatican City to urge the United States Government and the Holy See to demand that the Germans shall abandon their intention.

"The seven German divisions which occupy part of Yugoslavia have now given up hope of overcoming the strong resistance on the part of Yugoslav troops still holding out in the remoter parts of the country. They consequently propose to resort to blackmailing gangster methods. They are moving up artillery from a great circle round the Yugoslav captital, commanding every road leading out of it. When these guns are all in position, Yugoslav troops will be called upon to make an unconditional surrender. If they refuse, a force of Stuka dive-bombers will be sent to rain high-explosive and incendiary bombs on Belgrade, and the surrounding batteries will open a converging fire on the city, to destroy what still remains of its buildings after the terrible air onslaught last April, and mow down fugitives trying to escape.

"Strong indignation has very properly been expressed in Britain at the recent execution of a hundred French hostages, as a reprisal for the assassination of two German officers at Nantes and Bordeaux. But in Yugoslavia 12,000 hostages have been murdered in cold blood during the past summer. In the town of Kragujeva, in retaliation for the supposed killing of 26 German soldiers, 2,600 men, women and children were butchered. To make up the quota of their victims, the Germans carried off even boys and girls from the local high school, and pinning them in a corner of the courtyard turned machine-guns on them."

INDIAN STUDENTS IN THE R. A. F.

by

a Wing-Commander.

Many Indians in England are attracted to service in the Royal Air Force. Of 500 students from India who have not returned home since war began, about 100 are at present serving in the R. A. F., and others await entry. Of this 100, about 40 are holding commissioned rank as members of air crews, technicians, physical training instructors, etc. Some of them are flying the fastest machines in the world.

Personal contact with many of these men makes it abundantly clear that they all enjoy the life with its danger, excitement and thrills. University studies and peacetime pursuits have been put aside for the time being; the

sterner aspect of the job in hand carries a strong appeal. They enjoy the communal life, standard diet and open comradeship of the Royal Air Force.

ANXIOUS TO GET INTO THE THICK OF THE FIGHT.

Senior officers find that the Indian boy shows intense interest in training and does well in examinations. He is as anxious as a British boy to get into the thick of the fight. Some of the Indian boys are being trained for night fighting, a form of warfare which calls for exceptionally good eyesight and nerve. Air crews must have dash, courage and daring. These qualities are latent in the great majority of students from India. The ground staff are technicians who maintain aircraft in fighting trim. For them there is less opportunity for glory and excitement, but they are doing a vitally important job, as it is by their ability that many a crippled British aircraft returning from a raid manages to get home and bring its crew to safety. A number of brilliant Indian student engineers are members of the Royal Air Force ground staff.

A BOY WHO "FAILED."

One Indian boy failed to pass out as a pilot after the initial period of instruction. He pleaded hard to be given a few extra flying hours. The authorities found themselves unable to refuse him; he was so keen. Consequently he graduated, and is now a sergeant pilot, and flies a Spitfire!

Another boy is a sergeant pilot in the Bomber Command. He has been across enemy territory on a number of occasions.

Two Indian boys entered the Royal Air Force together and are being trained at the same station. They have completed some three months, sharing the same quarters, and already their reputation in this station for passing examinations is a favourite subject of talk. Among their British colleagues the question is often put: "which of them will be on top this month?"

The British nation realises what it owes to the Royal Air Force, and gives it the best of everything. Mothers and Fathers in India may be full of confidence that their boys' welfare is a matter of prime concern to the authorities. Diet and variety of food receive most careful consideration. Those who are vegetarians find no difficulty in getting ample diet. It would be no exaggeration to say that those serving in the R. A. F. are better fed than the average civilian.

Indian boys in their well-fitting blue uniform, with the flash "India" on the left shoulder, compare very favourably in physique, bearing and pride of race with Dominion representatives serving in the R. A. F. They are in demand at functions, and secure a good share of hospitality and entertainment. Excellent clubs and hostels throughout England provide good accommodation, food and facilities for them when on leave. Indians in the R. A. F. are therefore doing very well in the common cause.

THE AXIS SPEAKS—AND IS ANSWERED

A Commentary on Enemy Broadcasts to India and the Near East

For the period Dec. 7—14, 1941.

IMMUTABILITY.

"It is the immutable policy of Japan to ensure the stability of East Asia, and to contribute to the cause of the World peace, while the cardinal principle of its foreign policy has been to carry out to the full her national policy of cultivating friendship with all nations." (*Japanese news in English December 8, 1941*).

This "*immutable policy*" of stability and peace began nine years ago by the Japanese occupation of Manchuria following the "Mukden incident". In 1937 under the same "*immutable policy*" North China was attacked. Since the beginning of the "*China incident*" 4½ years ago, China has lost her ports, and a large proportion of her territory. Hundreds of thousands of Chinese men and women have been killed. A Japanese controlled puppet government under the traitor Wang Ching Wei has been set up in Nanking in opposition to the National Government of Chunking. French weakness was the opportunity for seizing military advantages in Indo-China and strangling her trade. And now "*the policy of cultivating friendship with all nations*" has brought about the invasion of Thailand, and the treacherous attack on Great Britain and the U.S.A.

VIRTUE'S NEW ROLE.

"Due to the *virtues* of our Sovereign, our Imperial forces proved to be victorious wherever they went." (*Japanese news in English, December 8, 1941*).

TWO VOICES.

This

"Japan is fighting for the *leading position* in the East Asiatic sphere." (*German topical talk in English, December 7, 1941*).

That

"In brief, the present war is waged by Japan for her *existence* and *self defence*." (*Japanese news in English, December 10, 1941*).

This

"*Japan has no territorial ambitions in Eastern Asia*, but aims solely at helping neigbbouring states so that each shall have its own place and liberty to determine its own destiny." (*Rome radio, December 9, 1941*).

That

"Japan is striking for living space in Eastern Asia". (*Axis radio, December, 1941*).

"The whole nation has waited for this day to strike at Britain and the United States." (*Japanese radio, December 14, 1941*).

MUDDLED MEDLEY.

"All the blame for the war should be placed on Franklin Roosevelt, war monger of the United States." (*Japanese news in English, December 8, 1941*).

"Responsibility for this war lies mainly on the shoulders of England. It is she who has always been instigating North America against Japan." (*Weekly news review in Bengali, from Italy, December 11, 1941*).

"The whole world is aware of Great Britain's attempts to drag the United States into the war against Europe." (*German news in English, December 7, 1941*).

"As a result of the American President's war mongering the first clashes have occurred in East Asia between Japanese and American forces. Thus this war monger No. 1 has at last succeeded in bringing war to his people." (*German radio, December 7, 1941*).

CAT OUT OF THE BAG.

On December 8, 1941 the German news in Hindustani made the British Prime Minister and the President of the U. S. A., jointly responsible for this war. Apparently the now much over worked Dr. Goebbels forgot that Italy had let the cat out of the bag last year.

On December 2, 1940 the Rome radio, in a confessional mood, announced : ***"The German people began a war of vengeance in 1939 in perfect identity of view with Rome. And Fascist Italy deliberately willed this war against England so that we can be free in Mare Nostrum."***

THAT ELUSIVE VICTORY.

Last October Dr. Goebbels was sure of victory, but he could not tell the Germans when they would achieve it; Von Ribbentrop however was more obliging, and in November he told them that it might take ***30 years !***

But on December 10, last year, the Rome radio "*felt victory very near,*" and Hitler told his Nazi dupes that he would win it before the end of 1940. In 1940 Britain proved very obstinate, and the Fuehrer had to postpone it until 1941. This year Russia has interfered with his plans, and now victory is so far away that even the eagle eyes of Dr. Goebbels cannot see it coming.

Hitler in his speech on December 11, said: "*It has been clear since the beginning that the war must be fought to the end. A year of historic events is behind us and a year of great decisions before us.*" How different is the tone of the Fuehrer from what it used to be! Victory is no longer certain; "*the war must be fought to the end.*" *the ghastly end for Germany!*

Even in 1942 he sees merely "*great decisions*", but *no victory*. With the entry of the United States into the war Hitler and his Nazi gang see *Defeat* staring them in the face.

According to Otto Strasser, "*Deep down every German, and every member of the German General Staff, will say 'now all is lost'.*" Strasser is a German, and he should know how the Germans think and feel.

"THE SNOW THEIR WINDING SHEET"

The capture of Russian material, according to Hitler, was achieved "*through efforts of which those at home can hardly have any conception.*" (Hitler's speech December 11, 1941). They cannot have any conception when they are fed on lies. Do the Germans know that in the snows of Russia, their killed and wounded number, *1,800,000,* and *not 774,415* as they were told by their Fuehrer.

But apart from telling them lies, he did not tell them that the German armies had been hurled back before Moscow, and that the German Afrika Korps, hammered and beaten was withdrawing.

JUST RETRIBUTION.

"We are even willing to conduct war lasting for a hundred years." (*Japanese Chief of General Staff to Mussolini, December 8, 1941*).

"This war is perhaps necessary and will certainly not be without utility, for while a military state, aggressive, ambitious, insatiable like Japan exists, calm and peace are impossible in the Far East." (*Yalchin, Turkish Deputy in Yenisabah*).

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

OF THE

Pudukkottai State War Information Bureau.

LECTURE LXXVI—(*Batch 3*).

1942—

January ...,	3, Saturday ...	Town Hall ...	6.30 p. m.
	4, Sunday ...	Alangudi ...	6.00 p. m.
		Vadagadu ...	6.30 p. m.
	5, Monday ...	College (A) English ...	10.15 a. m.
		Kodumbalur ...	6.00 p. m.
		Viralimalai ...	6.30 p. m.
	6, Tuesday ...	Kudumiamalai ...	6.00 p. m.
		Parambur ...	6.30 p. m.
	7, Wednesday	C. S. M. High School ...	10.00 a. m.
		Rani's High School ...	10.15 a. m.
		College (B) Tamil ...	10.15 a. m.
		Annavasal ...	6.00 p. m.
		Kilakkurichi ...	6.30 p. m.
	8, Thursday ...	Malaikkudippatti ...	6.00 p. m.
		Tholayanur ...	6.30 p. m.
	9, Friday ...	Valramanikkam ...	6.00 p. m.
		Yembal ...	6.30 p. m.

Sri Brihadamba State Press, Pudukkottai. 1,000—3-1-42.